Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 2 and 5-8 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, and 9-12 and add new claims 13-17 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A computer apparatus implemented visual modeling tool comprising:

a user interface including a display for displaying information from the visual modeling tool and interacting with the visual modeling tool;

means for displaying the visual modeling tool operating to interactively and gradually display successive decision levels of a visual multi-level decision tree, model in a symbol based table, the visual model including a plurality of each decision level including at least one visual object[[s]], each of the visual object[[s]] being linked to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree, and for decision levels with more than one visual object selection of one visual object represents a choice between the visual objects;

the visual modeling tool generating at least one browser button at a decision level with more than one visual object for providing information concerning choosing between said more than one visual object; and

such that after the initial object the tree displays the user interface operating to control the display so that as a user selects visual objects, the display displays only visual objects which depend from visual objects which have been selected by a user.

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- 2. (cancelled)
- 3. (currently amended) A computer apparatus as claimed in The visual modeling tool of claim 1, wherein once the final visual object set in the visual multi-level decision tree model is presented selected, consequences of that choice are presented to the user.
- 4. (currently amended) A computer implemented <u>visual modeling</u> method <u>for</u> interactively displaying in succession decision levels of a visual multi-level decision tree, the <u>visual modeling method</u> comprising:

displaying a <u>decision level of the visual multi-level</u> decision tree model, in a symbol based table, the <u>decision level including at least one visual object</u>, each visual object being linked to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree, and decision levels with more than one visual object representing a choice between the visual objects;

generating a plurality of browser buttons at each decision level for providing information concerning a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a browser button by displaying information concerning a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a visual object by causing a current decision level to advance to a next decision level for non-final visual objects; and

buttons, responding to a selection of a browser button, responding to a selection of a visual object, visual model includinguntil a final visual object is selected whereby a plurality of visual objects, each of the visual objects being linked to at least one other directly depend from visual

objects which have been selected by a user, form a visual multi-level decision tree model that is displayed level by level in succession based on user decisions.

- 5-8. (cancelled)
- 9. (currently amended) A-The visual modeling method as claimed inof claim 4, wherein once the final visual object in the tree is presented selected, consequences of that choice are presented to the user.
- 10. (currently amended) A The visual modeling method as claimed in of claim 9, wherein the consequences include cost implications of the choice.
- 11. (currently amended) A-The visual modeling method as claimed inof claim 9, wherein the consequences include workload implications of the choice.
- 12. (currently amended) A-The visual modeling method as claimed inof claim 9, wherein the consequences include risk analysis of the choice.
 - 13. (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a processing apparatus for running the visual modeling tool; and

the processing apparatus further running an internet connection program and an internet browser program available for use by the visual modeling tool running on the processor.

- 14. (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 wherein the visual objects are decision statements that represent choices to be made by a user.
- 15. (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 where in the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse considerations concerning a selection of a visual object.

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- 16. (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 where in the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse questions concerning a selection of a visual object.
- 17. (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 where in the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse answers put forward by other users to questions concerning a selection of a visual object.
- 18. (new) The visual modeling method of claim 4 wherein the browser buttons are internet browser buttons further comprising:

a consideration browser button with an internet link to access consideration information as an aid in making a selection;

a question browser button with an internet link to access questions pertinent to making a selection; and

an answer browser button with an internet link to user answers to the questions pertinent to making a selection.

19. (new) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a visual modeling tool to perform interactively with the display of a visual multi-level decision tree model in successive decision levels beginning at an initial decision level, by performing the steps of:

displaying a decision level of the visual multi-level decision tree model, the decision level including at least one visual object, each visual object being linked to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree and decision levels with more than one visual object representing a choice between the visual objects;

generating a plurality of browser buttons at each decision level for providing information concerning a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a browser button to browse considerations, questions, and answers based on the browser button selected as an aid in making a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection a visual object by causing the visual modeling tool to advance a current decision level to a next decision level for non-final visual objects; and

continuing with the steps of displaying a decision level, generating a plurality of browser buttons, responding to a selection of a browser button, and responding to a selection of a visual object until a final visual object is selected whereby a plurality of visual objects, each of the visual objects directly depend from visual objects which have been selected by a user, form a visual multi-level decision tree model that is displayed level by level in succession based on user decisions.

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